

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Office Action Summary

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious under US patent 6,343,220 ("Van der Salm") in view of US published application 2002/0086703 (Dimenstein et al. "Dimenstein"). Claims 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious under Van der Salm in view of Dimenstein, and in further view of US patent 5,884,191 (Karpus et al. "Karpus"). Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious under Van der Salm in view of Dimenstein, and in further view of US patent 5,991,640 (Lilja, et al. "Lilja"). Claim 6 stands objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant is unaware of any other rejections or objections pending in the application.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of originally filed Claim 5 and Claim 6. Claim 5 and Claim 6 have been canceled. Claim 7 and Claim 8 have been amended to correct their original dependency from Claim 5 to amended Claim 1.

Objection to Claim 6

Applicant notes the allowability of Claim 6, provided the intervening claims (Claim 1 and Claim 5) limitations are incorporated therein. Applicant has met thus requirement by amended Claim 1 to include all of the limitations of originally filed Claim 5 and Claim 6. In effect, amended Claim 1 meets this allowance requirement of the Examiner. Thus, Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under § 103(a)

The rejections under §103 of Claims 1, 2-4, and 7-12 have been obviated by incorporating the limitations of Claim 5 and Claim 6 into Claim 1, placing Claim 1 in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

Since all of the dependent claims depend from independent Claim 1, which is now in condition for allowance, it is well settled law that each of these dependent claims is also in condition for allowance. Such action by the Examiner is courteously solicited.

References Not Relied Upon

Applicant notes the references cited but not relied upon in the rejections.

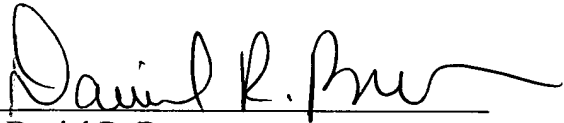
Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed April 7, 2005. The Applicant believes that the same places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration by the Examiner and allowance of the claimed invention is hereby courteously solicited.

Since the total number of claims in the Application is unchanged, it is Applicant's belief that all fees in the case have been previously paid. In the event that the Examiner determines otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such additional fees, excluding the Issue Fee, to Daniel R. Brown Deposit Account No. 501507.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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